March Comes in Like a Lion

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Chapter. 26

Black River (PART 2)

■ +P-2A
□ G-2A
■ S-1B

■ B-2D
□ +B-2D
■ G-1B

THEN
□ K-1B
■ +R-2B

THEN
□ G-1B
■ G-2A

SFX: HABU (CHOMP)

■ G-3A
□ K-3A
■ G-4A
□ K-3B
THEN
■ B-4B...

■ B-3C
□ B-3C
■ R-3D...

□ K-3D
■ S-3E
DROP,
THEN...

FROM UBANO MASAHIKO'S "5-MOVE CHECKMATE HANDBOOK" (JAPAN SHOGI ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS)

BREAD: TRIPLE SOFT

■ N-3D
□ K-3B
■ B-3A
PROMOTES

□ K-1B
THEN
■ R-2C
PROMOTES

■ B-2C
□ K-2B
■ B-1B
PROMOTES

トリプルソフト

SFX: BUSHA (CRUMPLE)

□ K-3A
THEN
■ G-4B

—OKAY, BETTER GET GOING...

SFX: POI (TOSS)

SFX: GASASA... (RUSTLE...)

Since then, I've seen Kiriyama just once at the shogi hall.

I thought about talking to him,

—but when I saw that serious look on his face, I decided not to.

He was reading over kifu and making copies of them.

The kifu that Kiriyama had collected together were of Shimada 8th dan's games

and Gotou 9th dan's games—

Just the two of theirs...

SFX: BUCHI BUCHI... (SNAP SNAP...)

Geez...

That shitty brat.

Man, that jerk pisses me off.

Has he completely ignored the possibility that I might win?!

And he thinks he can steamroll Shimada-san?

He's acting like he's raring to go up against Gotou. Who does he think he is?

I can't seeing myself beating Gotou and then facing off against Shimada-san.

I'll tell you one thing,

That's the problem.

I under-stand...

—Yeah.

–It's because I can measure it that I'm a pro.

I can try to accept it or I can try to avert my eyes,

but deep down I know brutally well just how high my ability is.

We're pros.

What Kiriyama is envisioning isn't just some selfish preconception.

just how it is.

And that's

"I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING,

I CAN'T SEE MYSELF BEATING GOTOU AND THEN FACING OFF AGAINST SHIMADA-SAN."

There are people that go in thinking "I don't know if I'll win",

and there are people that think "I could possibly win" or whatever.

BUT,

TO LIVE PAINFULLY LIKE THAT

TO SLOWLY CRAWL TOWARDS "VICTORY"

IS ALSO PART OF A PRO'S JOB.

my characteristics are more "light" and "thin".

If Gotou is "heavy" and "hard",

The formations Gotou uses are Static Rook and Anaguma.

So against that, I'll use Kazaguruma.

BIWY'S NOTES: KAZAGURUMA, OR "WINDMILL" STRATEGY, IS NAMED FOR HOW IT PULLS THE ROOK DOWN TO THE LOWER RANKS AND CAN GO LEFT AND RIGHT IN A ROUNDABOUT MOTION.

SFX: PACHI (TAP)

Last time, in anticipation of Gotou using a solid enclosure to make it a drawn-out battle, I formed a thick enclosure around my King

but I ended up in a formation where the "lightness" I always placed my faith on was was burdened by armour I wasn't used to.

And it resulted in my overwhelming defeat.

This is my second time against Gotou.

EVERY-ONE, PLEASE BEGIN.

HAVE GOOD MATCHES.

And against that, Gotou will make a solid and thought-out enclosure and go for one heavy attack.

I'm not going to make much of an enclosure around the King and get my pieces moving around quickly,

making lots of small wounds and leeching away my opponent's vitality.

this time I'm going to take him on with the shape I'm best at.

Based on that and on the counter-attack I've been working on,

It's also true

that games where victory or defeat is 100% certain

—I can't afford to have even a millisecond's lapse in concentration.

—But

I'm ready to take it on.

When I take that attack, it'll be the end.

never exist between fellow pros.

NO WON-DER.

IT WAS REALLY COLD OUT.

NAH, THE FORECAST SAID IT'S GOING TO SNOW AFTER NIGHT-FALL.

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THAT SKY. SEEMS LIKE RAIN.

Not only that, but my moves have stopped extending

No matter how much I wound him he never breaks down

Just how much vitality does he have?

And

Drawing this much blood isn't even enough to faze him

There aren't any openings I can take advantage of

He's attacking me with earth shattering power

I'm being wrenched open

What does this man see?

He's sacrificing the Rook for the Silver!?

My God

his attack has begun.

I'VE GOT NOTHING LEFT!!

to the bottom of the sea.

I'VE LOST.

In an instant

I got dragged down

Pitch black water is suddenly flooding in

I can't breathe.

THAT WAS LIGHT

常心是

—BUT STILL A LITTLE HEAVY—

THEN, DON'T WAVER.

IT PROBABLY WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER TO GO UP WITH △ 8-6C.

AFTER I PEEKED IN WITH ■ 8-2F, YOU DEFENDED WITH △ 6-5B FROM THE LEFT.

BY DOING WHAT YOU DID, YOU USED "HEAVINESS".

.....

YOU GO BY A PRINCIPAL OF LIGHTNESS, RIGHT?

I REALLY GOT SERVED A FULL COURSE...

ON TOP OF RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS AND LOSING OUTRIGHT

I GOT POSSESSED BY A DEMON.

AUGH...

WHAT A DISGRACE...

AH, I'M KINDA REALLY PISSED OFF NOW!

HE'S A POPULAR GUY, ISN'T HE...?

ボ!

I GUESS I NEED ANOTHER 10 YEARS BEFORE I CAN GIVE OFF THAT KIND OF INTENSITY.

HOW OLD HIS HE? 41...?

WHAT IS WITH THAT "SUPER TOUGH GUY" DEMEANOR?

THEN, DON'T WAVER.

SFX: BOSO... (MUTTER...)

COURSE A
(IF IT GOES IN)
I'LL GO HAVE A DRINK AT ONEE-CHAN'S SHOP.

COURSE B
(IF I MISS)
I'LL GO HOME, HIDE UNDER MY FUTON AND CRY MY EYES OUT.

LABEL: TRASH

RIGHT NOW, WHAT I'M GOING TO DO IS—

.....

WELL THEN...

ゴ ミ ク ズ ～!!

SFX: BUCHA MEKIYA (CRUSH)

SFX: ZUAS (SHWIP)

スーッ

SFX: KO (TAP)

コ

ロ

SFX: GA (STRIKE)

.....

SFX: BURU BURU BURU... (SHIVER SHIVER SHIVER...)

MEO

あほ

!!

SFX: GASA GASA (RUSTLE RUSTLE) SFX: GOSO... (RUMMAGE...)

.....

SIGH

ゴソ

I GET IT ALREADY!

AAAAAGH! OH...

ズボッ

SFX: ZUBO (RAM)

In deep thought...

.....

What do I do...?!

MEOW

COULD BE COURSE C?! THIS...!

COURSE C

*Find a kitten and look after it.

ヘナヘナ

AHH

MEO...

あまおー

SFX: HENAHENA... (COLLAPSE...)

CRATE: AMAO

LET'S START OVER.

BOTH YOU AND I.

AW, GEEZ.

THERE THERE, DON'T CRY.

FROM SQUARE ONE.

Chapter 26 end